

HRSA 03-054
STATE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH EARLY
CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS GRANTS
(SECCS)

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:

Social Security Act, Title V, 42 U.S.C. 701

CFDA NUMBER: 93.110

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this program is to support States to plan, develop, and ultimately implement collaborations and partnerships to support families and communities in their development of children that are healthy and ready to learn at school entry. This grant initiative combines Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) Early Childhood Health Strategic Plan with the State and local systems building initiatives supported through MCHB's Community Integrated Services Systems (CISS) grants program since 1992. While funding will be in two stages, Planning and Implementation, planning grants only are offered at this time. Plans would anticipate the implementation of systems which would include, but not be limited to, the following initiatives:

- access to medical homes providing comprehensive physical and child development services for all children in early childhood including children with special health care needs and assessment, intervention, and referral of children with developmental, behavioral and psycho-social problems.
- availability of services to address the needs of children at risk for the development of mental health problems and service delivery pathways to facilitate entrance of at risk children into appropriate child development and mental health delivery systems.
- early care and education services for children from birth through five years of age that support children's early learning, health, and development of social competence.

- parent education services that provide support to parents in their role as prime educators of their children.
- family support services that address the stressors impairing the ability of families to nurture and support the healthy development of their children.

Through planning grants, States would be expected to provide leadership in the development of cross systems service integration. They would work closely with other State public and private agencies to coordinate their efforts into a common focus on assuring the availability of a broad range of early childhood intervention services. Examples of such agencies would be the State administrations for Mental Health, Public Welfare, Education, Child Welfare, local and county health departments, March of Dimes, Easter Seal Society, etc. This grant should facilitate: 1) a completed needs assessment with respect to early childhood intervention; 2) a completed plan for action based on the needs assessment; and 3) documented evidence of the contribution and commitment of their partners to carry out this plan. The achievement of these essential goals is requisite for States to apply for an implementation grant.

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